

COMMENT OF
THE DAY

Budget Debate

AS usual, the Unofficials missed no pertinent point in their debate of the Estimates. Nor was wordage at a premium. Approximately 10,000 words were used to convey compliments, mild criticism and suggestions, and probably half of them would have been equally as effective, and certainly much easier for the general public to absorb through their morning newspapers. We believe the Unofficials could pay some attention to this in the future without endangering oratory or prejudicing their position as guardians of, and spokesmen for, the public conscience.

The subjects which properly qualified to come within the expression "debateable" were varied and interesting, and indicated that the Unofficials, while sympathetic with Government's overall policy as it affects the welfare and prosperity of the Colony, are by no means complaisant about specific matters of importance. This the people will note with satisfaction.

THE general relief expressed over the decision not to impose additional taxation to meet an estimated deficit is understandable, but it might also have been pointed out, without any affront, that extra taxation to bridge a gap which may or may not materialise, would have been a thoroughly unjust imposition.

On the general question of increased direct taxation the stand taken by the Hon. S. N. Chau and his colleagues receives full approval. Unless and until taxation on income is more widely applied, this form of revenue raising should be left undisturbed. It is out of the question to expect any reduction in this respect on personal earnings, but it is right that Government should realise that any increases in this direction cannot be tolerated. There are more equitable means of raising additional revenue—and much less painful.

SOME of the subjects mentioned by the Unofficials to which, we believe, Government could devote its immediate attention without straining its financial resources or compromising its high policies are (1) reopen negotiations on the military lands in Queen's Road Central; (2) provide Kowloon with the post office it so obviously needs (and has for so long been promised); (3) offer the necessary incentives to Hongkong-trained nurses to fill vacancies in our own hospitals and thus eliminate distressing wastage; (4) bring the length of home leave for expatriates in line with that adopted by the majority of commercial firms, thus effecting a valuable saving in time and money. These matters are well within the realm of undelayed action, and could, without sacrificing other considerations, be given attention during the coming fiscal year.

For their critical analysis of the Budget the Unofficials earn the public's appreciation. Several of its features which at first reading were obscure have been clarified. And none can deny that the Unofficials, as a body, have put forward a substantial number of constructive suggestions, several of which Government could adopt to the benefit of the Colony.

AUSTRIAN TREATY: NEW SOVIET MOVE



DR JULIUS RAAB

Head Of Govt. Invited To Moscow

Moscow, Mar. 24.

The Soviet government today invited the Austrian Chancellor, Julius Raab, to come to Moscow to negotiate an Austrian treaty.

The Foreign Minister, Mr. V. M. Molotov, issued the invitation in an oral statement to the Austrian Ambassador, Mr. Norbert Bischoff, after handing Mr. Bischoff the Soviet Union's written reply to the Austrian note of March 14.

The contents both of the note and the reply were given to Western correspondents at a Foreign Ministry press conference convened at 10 p.m. local time.

The Austrian note of March 14 informed Russia that Austria was ready to join a four-power conference aimed at settlement of the Austrian treaty problem, but that any new conference must be preceded by clarification of the Soviet Union's desire for a guarantee against a new German Anschluss with Austria.

The Soviet note took note of the Austrian government's desire for more information on "effective guarantees" against an Anschluss or "encroachment from any direction."

It said the rearmament of Western Germany created a danger of engulfing Austria and made the need for taking measures against it "obvious."

"In connection with this, it is necessary to consider the terms of withdrawing the troops of the four powers from Austria as well as measures to be taken in the future in the event of a direct threat of an Anschluss," said the Soviet note.

THE INVITATION

The Soviet note also agreed to give the Austrian treaty "individual consideration." The Soviet Foreign Ministry press chief, Mr. Leonid Ilyich, quoted Mr. Molotov as telling the Austrian Ambassador orally:

"The Soviet government knows through the statement by Chancellor Raab of his positive attitude toward coming to Moscow to conclude a State treaty."

"Taking into consideration this statement by Chancellor Raab and considering it desirable to establish personal contact between Austria and the Soviet Union, the Soviet government will welcome the arrival in Moscow of Chancellor Raab as well as other representatives which the Austrian government might desire to send for this purpose."

Mr. Bischoff assured Mr. Molotov he would immediately transmit the invitation to Vienna.—United Press

ONE CONDITION

Officials here close to the Chancellor, Herr Julius Raab, commented today that Herr Raab had said he would go to Moscow only "if he were sure he would not come back empty handed."

They were commenting on the Soviet invitation to Herr Raab, announced today, to visit Moscow.

Turmoil In Belgian Towns

Brussels, Mar. 24.

New street fights broke out tonight in Belgium's big church versus state battle and drastic measures were taken to prevent the wave of violence from sweeping through the capital.

All gatherings of more than five people in the Brussels area and the adjoining commune were forbidden. Police and gendarmes were ordered to prevent any concentration of troops.

Roman Catholics say they are determined to stage a banned "march on Brussels" on Saturday.

While nearly a million Catholic school children and students "drowned pens" today in a one-day protest strike the Socialist Liberal Government won by 113 votes to 80 a vote of confidence for its reform plan which cuts down the subsidies enjoyed by Catholic schools and has provoked the troubles.

Two weeks of nationwide demonstrations against the reforms appeared tonight to be approaching a climax.

Bitter fighting broke out at Mons and more than 6,000 students demonstrated in Louvain.—Reuter.

Evatt Supports China's Claim

Sydney, Mar. 24.

Australian Labour leader Dr. Herbert Evatt, in a speech at Wollongong near here today advocated the admission of Communist China and other Communist countries into the United Nations.

"The United Nations is not just a club for goodies," he said. Dr. Evatt, who is a former President of the United Nations General Assembly, claimed that the "United Nations should be open to all nations so that truth and falsehood could battle it out."—France-Press.

Where Women Boast Of Murder

The biggest problem in Mau Mau land today is to be found in the 1,000 acre prison camp at Kamili. There are some of the toughest and most detestable women in the world, once upon a time the murderers, the Mau Mau court judges, the oath administrators, committee members and the thugs' girl friends.

They are out of the fight now but are they repentant? Not a bit. They still boast of their diabolical crimes. And among them is an English Woman supervising the great work of rehabilitating these "hyenas" to make them fit and decent and people again.

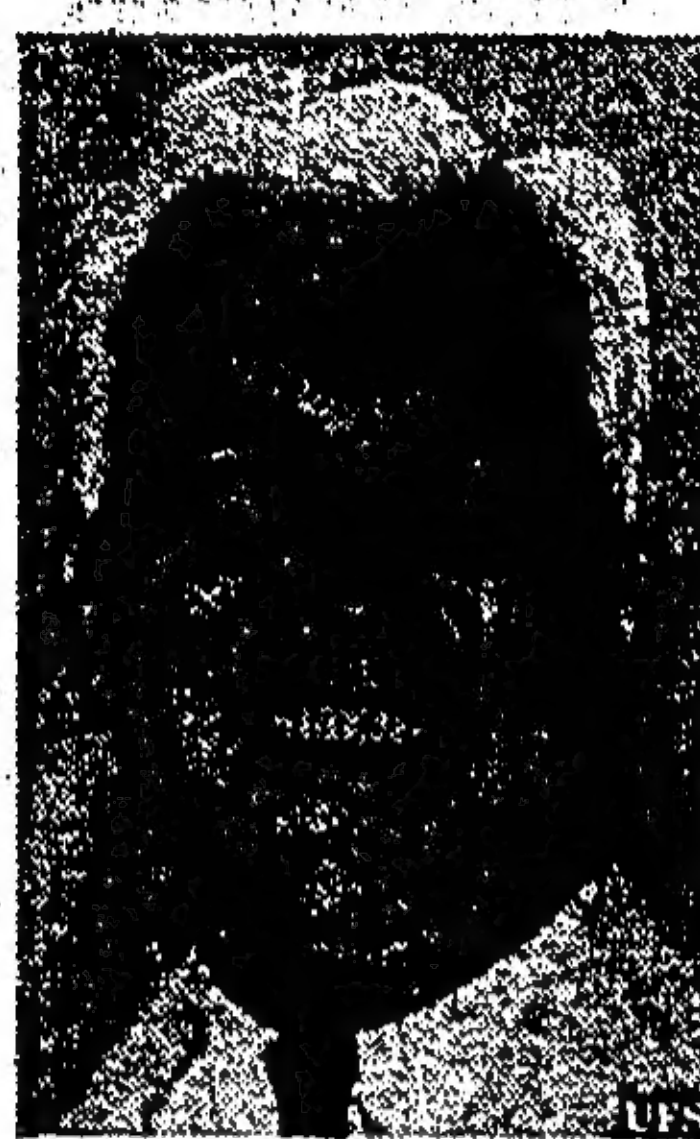
John Redfern writes on Kenya's most challenging problem in tomorrow's China Mail—Hongkong's big week-end newspaper packed with a selection of the best features and pictures of the week.

Here are some of the highlights:

- *Titles for sale in England—Julian Symons tells the story of one of the century's biggest scandals.*
- *William Hickey, our bright and breezy Fleet Street columnist meets the Aga Khan.*
- *The strange story of the man who never died.*
- *Anna Scott-James tells her women readers: "I don't mind a bit of gossip but BEWARE THE VOICE OF THE VIPER."*

In addition, Janis Roberts writes on current films; there are local and overseas sports reviews, the latest Glee and a list of winners for tomorrow's meeting at the Valley. In the Saturday China Mail.

Dies, Aged 63



Mr. Paul V. McNutt, former High Commissioner to the Philippines, whose death at the age of 63 is announced.

Churchill Listens To Lancashire's Complaints

London, Mar. 24.

Sir Winston Churchill and four other government ministers spent 80 minutes tonight listening to the Lancashire cotton industry's complaints against cheap imports from Asia.

After the meeting at No. 10 Downing Street, one of the 17 strong cotton delegation told Reuter they were "satisfied as far as it went."

They expected that some response to the proposals they had put to the government might be discussed in the House of Commons next Tuesday, he said.

PM ASKS QUESTIONS

One of the delegation which was led by Sir Raymond Street, Chairman of the Cotton Board, said the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. R. A. Butler, and the President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Peter Thorneycroft, had taken the chief part in the discussions on the government side.

He said the Prime Minister had asked questions and had wound up the discussion.

An official statement issued after today's meeting said the Prime Minister was accompanied by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Lord Woolton, and the Minister of State at the Board of Trade, Mr. Austin Low, as well as by Mr. Butler and Mr. Thorneycroft.

The statement said the spokesman for the delegation had put forward "unanimous recommendations" to deal with "the problem of grey cloth imports."

The statement concluded: "A general discussion followed about the problems of the cotton industry and in conclusion the Prime Minister assured the delegation that the government would give urgent and earnest consideration to the proposals."—Reuter.

SURPRISE OFFER BY RUSSIA

London, Mar. 25.

Russia announced tonight that it is willing to join the Western nations in reducing conventional armaments before banning atomic weapons.

The surprise reversal of Soviet policy was announced by the first Deputy Soviet Foreign Minister, Andrei Gromyko, in an interview over Radio Moscow.

Previously, the Soviets had insisted on linking an across-the-board reduction in conventional weapons and armed forces with a plan to ban atomic weapons.

PARIS TREATIES RATIFICATION

French Senate Postpones Voting

Paris, Mar. 24.

The French Council of the Republic (Senate) has postponed its vote on the Paris agreements until Saturday night or Sunday.

Originally the Council was expected to vote early on Saturday but so many senators have put down their name to speak that the Council President, M. Gaston Monnerville, said today that the general debate would continue until Friday night. The discussion of amendments would not start until Saturday and would continue on Sunday if necessary, he added.

In consequence the Foreign Minister, M. Antoine Pinay, has let it be known that he was going to postpone his big speech in favour of immediate and unconditional ratification from today until tomorrow.

Forty senators were down to take part in the debate when the session opened this afternoon.

The general view in the Senate lobbies was that the government would win the day but that it would have to be a narrow victory. A slight flurry was caused by the publication of a short letter written by General de Gaulle on March 2 to a Paris high school teacher, indicating his disapproval of unconditional ratification of the Paris agreements.

At the same time a spokesman of General de Gaulle said he had issued no instructions to the Gaullist senators and was leaving them entirely free to vote as they thought best. It was expected that a majority of the 47 Gaullist senators would refuse to vote for the agreements.

SOCIALISTS FOR

Earlier today a spokesman for the Socialist senators said a big majority of the 58 Socialist representatives in the Upper House would vote for ratification without amendment.

A spokesman for the Popular Republic said his group of 28 senators was in favour of ratification but at the same time they would make up their minds whether to support any amendments or not after they had heard what the Foreign Minister and the Premier had to say.

It was presumed that with the new time schedule running into Sunday for this debate, Premier Edgar Faure would speak some time on Saturday.

NEW SHOWDOWN

It is important for the government at all costs to get the Senate debate and vote concluded at the latest some time on Sunday because on Monday the government has to face a new showdown with the Gaullist shopkeepers movement.

The National Assembly on Monday afternoon is due to start a debate on the tax reform bill which government experts have drawn up in a hurry this week, and which includes clauses aimed at satisfying the shopkeepers' claims.

When the news reached the Senate this afternoon that West German President Heuss had signed the Paris treaties, it was felt that this finalisation of the ratification process in Germany would help the government for rapid and unconditional ratification.—Reuter.

Enthusiasm Dampened By Hagglng

Tokyo, Mar. 24.

The impossibility of divorcing trade from politics in dealings with China has been forcibly brought home to the Japanese this week by the haggling in Hongkong over nationality description in applications for visas of 39 members of a private Chinese trade delegation, who are on their way to Japan.

There is a distinct impression here that enthusiasm for the Chinese trade delegates' visit has waned both on the part of the government and on that of businessmen since the visa was issued and opportunities for political exploitation became more clearly realised.

No doubt the more restrained approach owes something too to Mr. Stassen's visit to Tokyo a fortnight ago and the warning made to the government that the Communists would try to use trade as an instrument of foreign policy.

The question which is bound to come up is the exchange of permanent trade delegations. As Chinese trade is state controlled, the setting up of a permanent Chinese delegation in Tokyo would be tantamount to authorising a government agency in Japan, and would again raise the question of recognition as well as the possibility of its misuse for subversive ends.—The Times News Service.

Geneva, Mar. 24.

A poliomyelitis vaccine may become available in the not too distant future, according to a 400-page study published here today by the World Health Organisation.—China Mail Special.

Eight Men Released On Bail, Rearrested

Lahore, Mar. 24.

Eight men accused of plotting to seize power by force, who had been released on bail by the Lahore High Court today, were rearrested tonight on the orders of the Pakistan Government.

The arrests were ordered shortly after the Governor-General, Mr. Chulani Mohammed, flew to Lahore to deal personally with the critical situation which arose from the High Court order.

The men were detained under the Restriction and Detention Ordinance, 1944, on instructions from Karachi.

EX-CHIEF OF STAFF

The eight men are a former Chief of Staff of the Pakistan Army, a leftwing newspaper editor, and six senior military officers. They were convicted two years ago in a case known as the "Rawalpindi Conspiracy" of conspiring to overthrow the established government and set up a Communist state.

The men had been released by the Lahore High Court on the same grounds that last Monday won the government a Federal Court decision against the challenge of the Governor-General's dissolution of the Constituent Assembly last October 24.

Mr. Justice Shahab Ahmad cited Monday's ruling that no act of the Constituent Assembly was valid unless it received the assent of the Governor-General. The law under which the accused in the Rawalpindi case were tried was one of these acts.

The Federal Court ruling, invalidated more than 46 acts passed by the Assembly and created a storm of judicial and constitutional confusion.

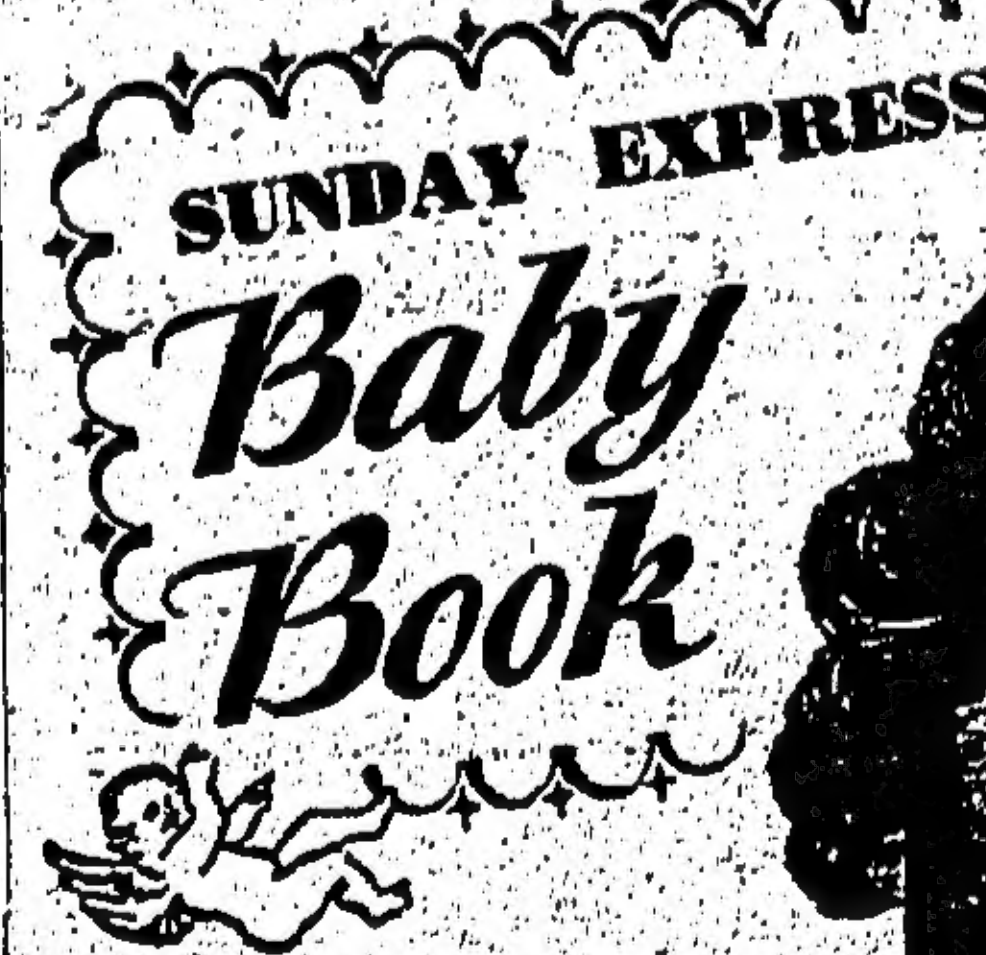
MANOUELS—The Pakistan Cabinet has been in continuous session since Tuesday to evolve a formula whereby the Governor-General, by giving his assent, could invalidate retroactively all laws of the Assembly and still maintain the Federal Court's ruling supporting the dissolution of the National Legislature.

The Cabinet met for eight hours today and had reached no decision by tonight. It will meet again tomorrow.

The Rawalpindi conspiracy plot was announced by the late Prime Minister of Pakistan, Liaquat Ali Khan, in January 1951, when 15 people were accused. Akbar Khan was named as ringleader of the plot.—Reuter.

Brussels, Mar. 24.

The Belgian Upper House is expected to ratify the Paris agreements on April 1, it was learned here today. The Lower House ratified them with an overwhelming majority last January.—Reuter.



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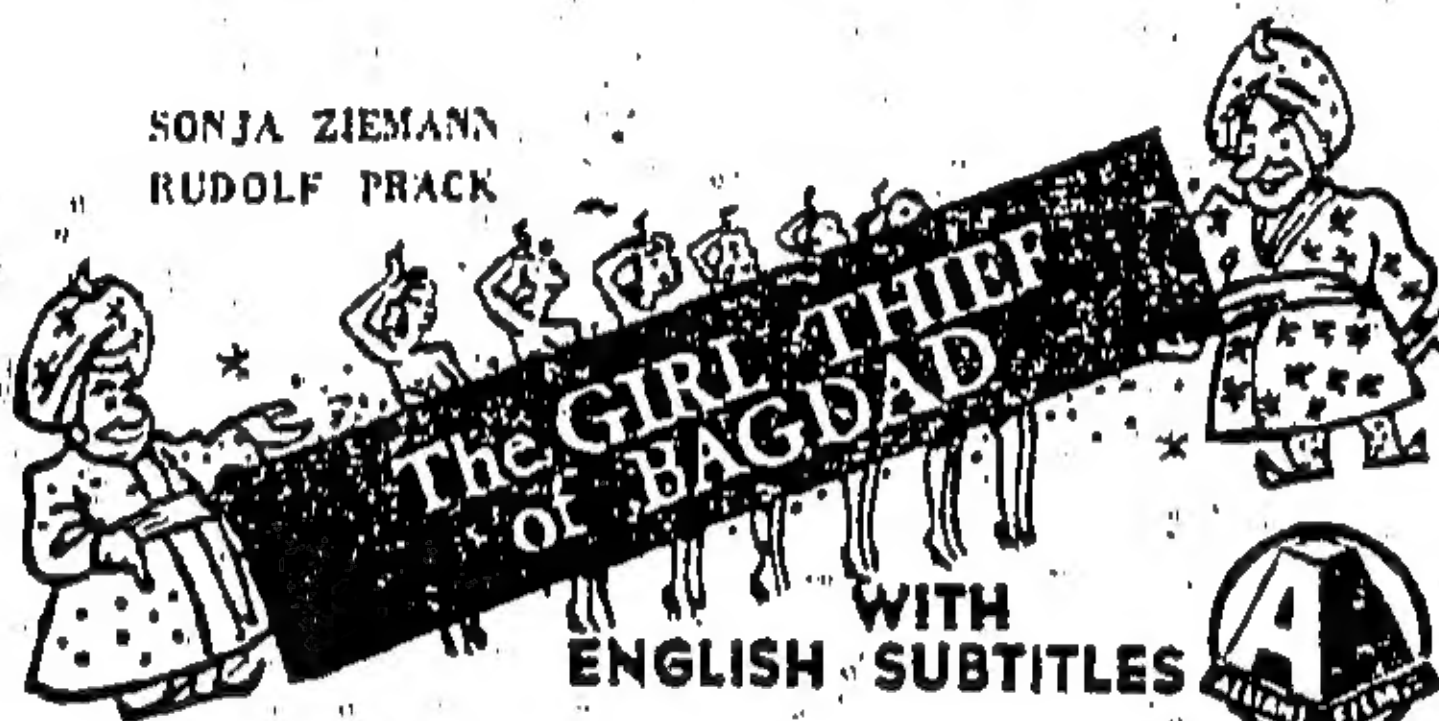
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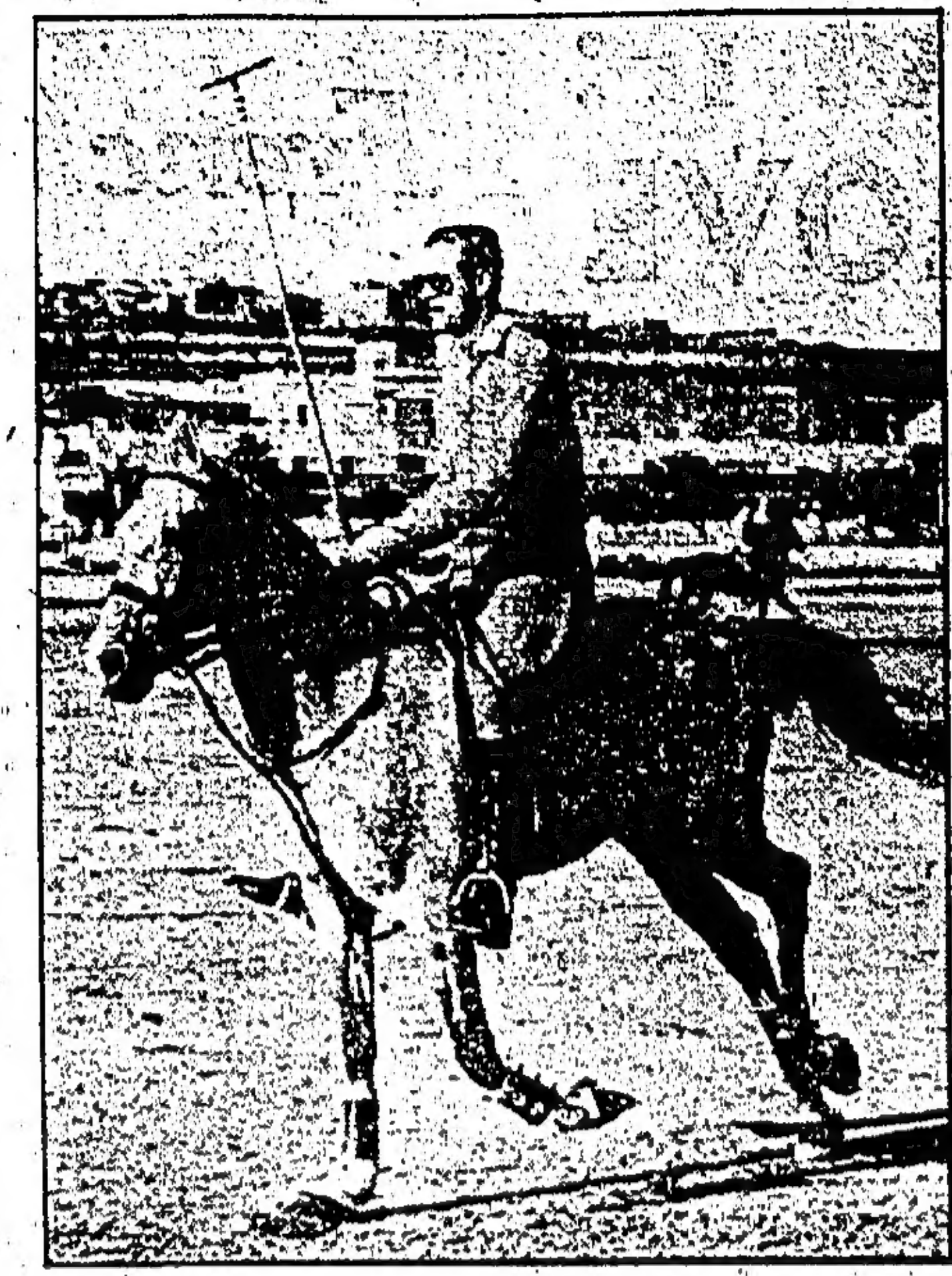
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OFF-SHORE ISLANDS DISPUTE

The Duke Gets His Eye In



H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh practising on the polo ground at Marsa, Malta. H.R.H. landed at Malta from the Royal Yacht Britannia after taking part in the Combined Fleet exercises.—Central Press Photo.

Serious Outbreak Of Witch Killings

Kampala, Uganda, Mar. 24.
The biggest outbreak of witch killings ever known among the primitive Suk tribe, who wander with their cattle in the inhospitable Karamoja country, in northeast Uganda, has resulted in more than 100 tribesmen being arrested.

Investigations by the police are still going on in this sparsely-populated area, and the latest count shows that eleven killings of witches have been confirmed out of a total of 22 reports received.

Of the eleven, three are believed to be the work of one man.

Witch-killings have broken out at intervals throughout the known history of the Suk tribe. They usually occur in one's and two's, when relatives of people who have died as a result of being "bewitched" avenge the family honour by killing the suspected "witch" in the traditional, ritual manner.

The victim is tied hand and foot, and forced to kneel on the ground and beaten with small, extremely thorny, twigs until death occurs, often after many hours.

Then the "avengers" kill the favourite bull of the "witch" and have a feast, which is accepted as the only way to lay the spirit completely.

Reports of the killings started filtering through to the local police headquarters at Moroto months ago, and gradually increased in number. To investigate them, police parties toured hundreds of miles of country, questioning the primitive tribesmen. In most cases, they had no difficulty in finding a lead, since the avengers freely admitted what they had done.

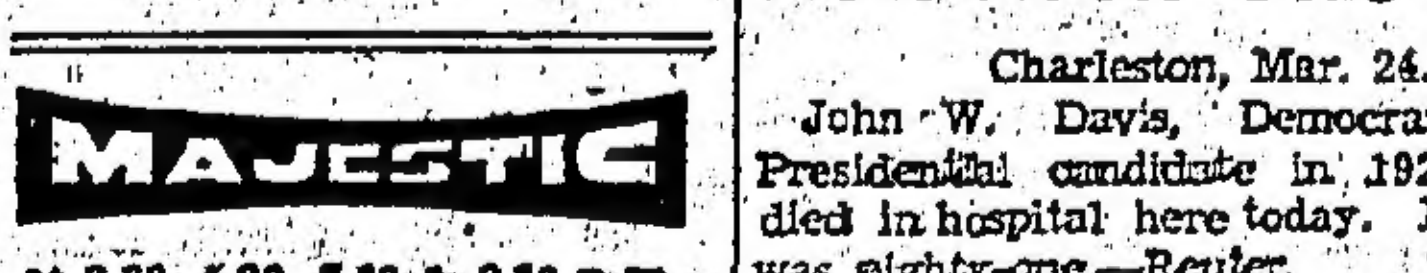
GAOL FULL
The result is that Moroto gaol is now full of alleged witch-killers, while the hard-worked police are spending long hours preparing cases against them under the laws of Uganda.

To try the men, a special session of the High Court of Uganda has had to be arranged to take place at Moroto. The hearings are likely to last many weeks.—China Mail Special.

MAJESTIC

AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

HELD OVER!



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POP

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WHO DID YOU WANT TO TALK TO, ANYWAY?



OH, ANYONE I WANTED TO HEAR THE SOUND OF A VOICE AGAIN!



Canada Will Not Support America Or Nationalists

GLOBAL WAR FEARED FROM INCIDENT

Ottawa, Mar. 24.
The Canadian External Affairs Minister, Mr. Lester Pearson, told the House of Commons today Canada would not go to war in support of the United States conflict for possession of Chinese off-shore islands of Quemoy and the Matsus.

Nor, he added, would Canada become involved over any situation in support of the Chinese Nationalists.

He said, however, that it might happen that the United States actions arising out of either or both could trigger chain reaction that would be world-wide in which case the whole world, including Canada, would become involved.

PREVIOUS REMARKS

His remarks on the Far East came following a speech last week in Toronto in which, he said, it was inconceivable that Canada would stand aloof from the United States in major war which threatened the very existence of the United States.

The US State Secretary, Mr. John Foster Dulles, who was here last week made the same

JAPS NOT GUILTY OF EVADING CUSTOMS

London, Mar. 24.
Mr. Elidichi Akita, European manager of the Osaka Line—Japan's second largest shipping company—and his assistant Mr. Hideo Yamamoto, were acquitted here at Exchequer of attempting to evade paying customs duty on a camera.

A British customs officer told the court that last November he went to Mr. Akita's flat with two other customs officers. One of the customs men said Mr. Akita, when he arrived earlier at London airport, said he had nothing to declare.

He was asked if he had a camera; he produced one and said he had imported it a month before, saying he had lived in England and had been passed with the camera without having to pay duty.

DECLARATION
He was asked to sign a declaration to that effect but the customs officer said Mr. Akita then changed his story and said the camera belonged to his assistant.

He added that Mr. Yamamoto had told him that duty had been paid on the camera when it had been brought into Britain.

Mr. Akita told him that his assistant had bought the camera in Hamburg, found it unsatisfactory and had brought it back to be exchanged, the officer said.

Mr. Yamamoto later bore out this story the court was told.

Today, both Japanese denied attempting to evade payment of customs duty on the camera, and the magistrates dismissed the case.—China Mail Special.

London, Mar. 24.
Major-General Campbell Richard Hardy, Royal Marines commander in Normandy and Burma in World War II, and later against terrorists in Malaya, was today appointed their Commandant-General with the rank of Lieutenant-General from next August.—China Mail Special.

SENATOR DIES

Charleston, Mar. 24.
John W. Davis, Democratic Presidential candidate in 1924, died in hospital here today. He was eighty-one.—Reuter.

QUEEN'S & ALHAMBRA

TO-DAY ONLY



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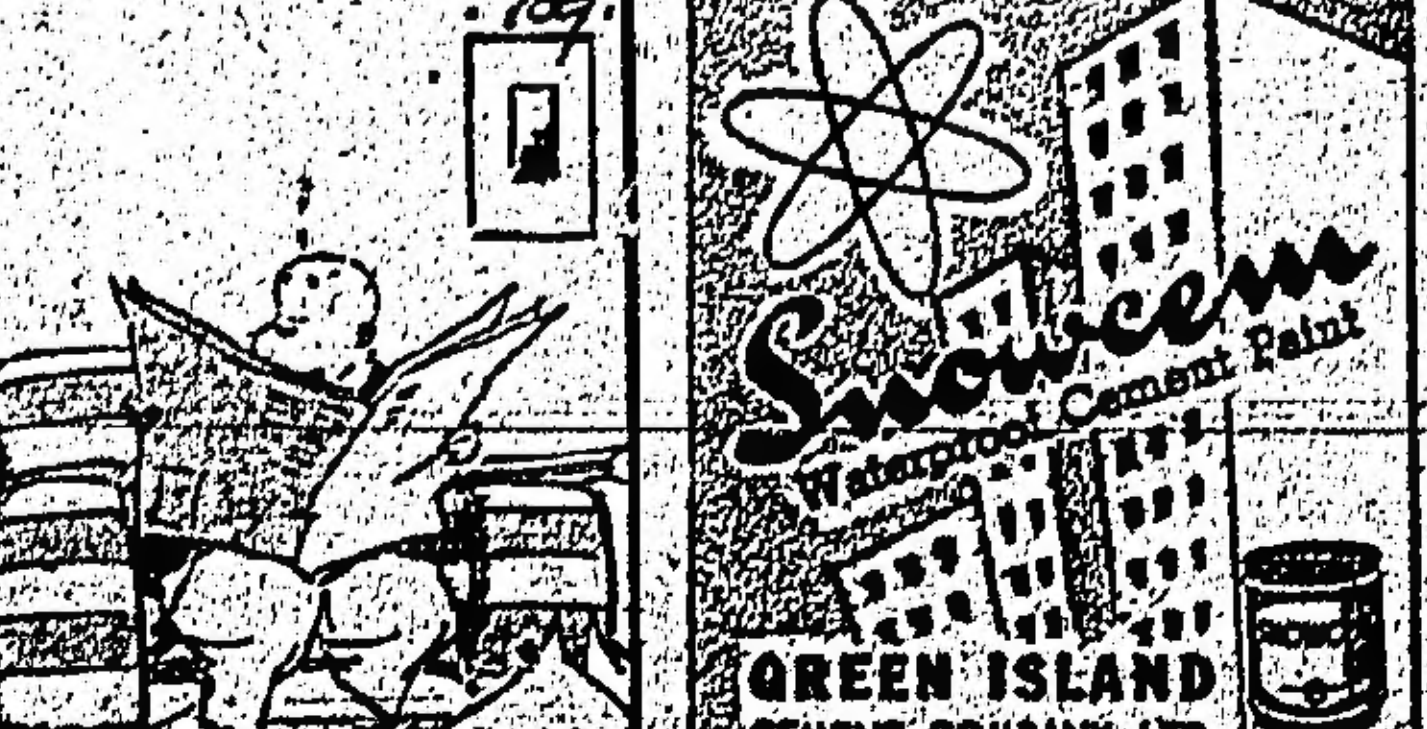
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EAST-WEST CONFERENCES

Big Three Democratic Powers Should Hold Preliminary Meetings

KNOWLAND'S OPINION

Washington, Mar. 24.

Senator William Knowland, Republican minority leader, said today it might be well to hold a preliminary meeting of the Big Three Western Powers to iron out their policy differences before meeting Soviet delegations.

He was speaking to reporters on President Eisenhower's statement yesterday that he would be willing to make concessions for exploratory East-West talks at a level below heads of state.

Senator Knowland interpreted this as indicating the President was always willing to meet the Russians but wants some advance indication that such a meeting would be fruitful.

CANVASS CONGRESS

"We had better get some unity among the free world allies before we have any such conference," he said. "There also should be a canvass of Congressional sentiment about what American representatives would be prepared to discuss with the Russians."

Senator Knowland has cautioned against top-level Big Four talks on the ground that "appeasement minded allies" might agree to concessions for the Russians leaving the United States alone.

Senator Walter George, Democrat Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, also said talks should be held with British and French officials before any four-power meeting. "After the Paris agreements for arming Germany have been ratified, I hope work can be started on an agenda for a high-level conference," Senator George said. "I would hope that such an agenda could be developed by autumn."

Reports have been current here that United Nations diplomats thought a Big Four meeting might take place in San Francisco in June. In that month the United Nations will celebrate their tenth anniversary in San Francisco.

The Christian Science Monitor said yesterday in a dispatch from its UN correspondent that Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, the United Nations Secretary-General, had sent out invitations to the Foreign Ministers of all 60 UN members to attend the celebrations.

WILL ACCEPT

"He has good reason to believe that a large number, including the Big Four, will accept," the Monitor said.

So far, however, there has been no intimation that the Foreign Ministers of Britain, France or the Soviet Union will in fact attend. United Nations officials, too, said yesterday that they knew nothing of reported plans for a Big Four meeting during the celebrations.

In an editorial, the Monitor said East-West talks promised to yield little or nothing, but fruitful or unfruitful they would probably strengthen Western ties.

"Act of faith or no act of faith by Moscow, the time seems almost at hand when the United States must show willingness to begin preparing for talks," it said. "Most of its allies have looked beyond the completion of America's aims in building up Western European military power. They look to a period of energetic and even daring adventures to relax tensions that could tauten into an atomic war."

LESSON CHANCE

Later today Senator Knowland said that a big-four conference might actually lessen "the chance for peace" if it broke up in major disagreement.

Mr. Knowland told reporters that it was essential that the United States and her allies "see whether there is a reasonable meeting of minds" among themselves before undertaking any talks with the Soviet Union.

If some disagreements between the United States and Great Britain were not ironed out first, Senator Knowland said, the Soviets could "play one free nation off against the other."

Soon after the Senate met today, Mr. Knowland put into the record a listing of international agreements he said the Soviet Union had broken.

He said the record ought to be considered in weighing "the advantage of any such meeting at the summit without a demonstration of deeds not words" by Moscow.

Among the pacts he listed were some going back to 1920 and 1921, non-aggression treaties of the 1930's, the covenant of the League of Nations and agreements negotiated by Mr. Maxim Litvinov when he was Foreign Minister.

GAP WIDENS
Reuters' Correspondent Paul Scott Rankine reported that the gap between President Eisenhower and the right wing of the Republican Party over proposed East-West talks has widened.

President Eisenhower's unusually favourable comments on Senator George's proposal, and his emphasis on the bipartisanship of his approach to the whole subject, have been interpreted here as an indication that his attitude is now nearer to that of the Democratic leader than to that of Senator Knowland.

It was noted in diplomatic circles that the President at his Press conference yesterday came as near as present circumstances will permit to taking the "initiative" that Senator George suggested he should take in launching a movement towards top level talks with the Russians.

The President said the question of initiative was not particularly important but there had "got to be new exploratory talks" on a comparatively low level. He stressed his willingness to have such talks followed by a conference at the "heads of government" level if there were a promise of success.

The speedy official reaction of the British Foreign Office, endorsing the President's proposals, suggested that his statement was regarded there as a positive call for East-West exploratory talks as soon as the Paris treaties on German rearmament are ratified.

The emphasis placed by the President on the necessity for exploratory talks with the Russians seems at variance with the report of the President's position given out by Senator Knowland the day before the President spoke.—Reuter.

Consul's Daughter Elopes: Joins Bedouin Tribe

Aleppo, Mar. 24.

The desert sands and hidden valleys of Syria held the secret today of two young lovers who defied an angry father and eloped to the nomadic life of the Bedouin in a true-life story as melodramatic as any Hollywood ever conceived for "sheikh" Rudolf Valentino.

The Arabs, true to their tradition of hospitality to any guest who comes among them, kept the secret of the whereabouts of an 18-year-old blonde beauty, Nicole Poche, and her Moslem husband, 23-year-old Rida Yamlikha.

AMERICANS TAUGHT TO MAKE TEA

New York, Mar. 24.

America's great "take tea and see" campaign raised imports to \$115,000,000 during 1954, ten per cent more than the previous year, 22 per cent more than 1952, according to the latest figures.

And the millions switching from coffee to tea are being treated to elaborate free instruction on how to brew it and drink it. The Tea Council of the United States of America are having a three-day lesson on the nation's television screens.

Purely concerned with the aesthetics of tea and shunning proprietary claims, the Council advises: "The best way is the English way."

Croons a beaming housewife-teacher: "You must boil your water and pour it straight on to the tea in the pot; remember, there must be one teaspoonful for each cup to be served. And then three husky men are pictured drinking with satisfaction the brew made in the correct fashion."

USE MILK

"Milk is recommended, not lemon," adds the instructor. Says the Tea Council: half of America's tea drinkers use loose tea, the other half uses tea bags. But it admits restaurants still do not know how to make tea; they mostly hand customers a cup of hot water with a tea bag in the saucer.

India provides 35 per cent of America's tea; Ceylon, 34 per cent; Indonesia, 13 per cent. The rest comes from Formosa, Japan and Africa.—London Express Service.

Hindu Influx Into India

New Delhi, Mar. 24.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, told Parliament today that the influx of Hindus from East Pakistan was steadily increasing and that the Indian Government was taking the matter up with Pakistan.

Mr. Nehru said that a deteriorating economic conditions, insecurity and the feeling of uncertainty was the main reason for the influx. He added that the influx was a matter of concern to India and a meeting at Ministerial level with Governor Mirza Isfahani would be held shortly.—United Press.

Queen Meets Students



Indian student Mr. M. S. Rana has a conversation he will never forget with the Queen at a party given by the Dominions Fellowship Trust in Goldsmiths Hall, London.—United Press.

Student Created Revolutionary Study Cell

Kuala Lumpur, Mar. 24.

A LETTER from Communist China congratulating a former student of a Chinese school in Kuala Lumpur for the formation of a "revolutionary study cell," and urging him to go on with his "most important secret activity" was read out in the Supreme Court here today.

The letter, addressed to "Comrade Ken Yew" was an exhibit in a case against Chu Kon-yew, aged 18, who was charged, with possessing a terrorist document and a book, "Chinese Youth," in his home in Lake Yew Road.

Chu's house was one of five raided by Special Branch Police on February 9 after they had accumulated information concerning the activities of several students and former students in Chinese schools in Selangor.

Chu admitted that the book "Chinese Youth" and the letter had been found in his house. The book was left behind by a friend who had gone to Communist China and later sent him the letter, he said.

Chu said that he had not read the book which was in a bundle with others. The Chief Justice, Sir Charles Mathews, convicted Chu. He postponed sentence to April 5.—Reuter.

Two Brothers Expelled DISILLUSIONED AUSTRALIAN COMMUNIST

Hanover, Mar. 24.

Sydney-born Mr. Bernard William Maher ended six weeks' personal and "illegal" investigation of Soviet controlled East Germany by declaring here tonight "I am no longer a Communist."

Mr. Maher, 27, made the statement after relating to Pressmen how his "fact-finding" tour in East Germany turned into six weeks of Russian interrogation, a month in a basement cell in Berlin, and final expulsion by the Soviet authorities.

Mr. Maher turned up at the Helmsstedt border town after an absence dating from February 14 and announced to West German authorities that he had been expelled from the East Zone.

Today his brother, 31-year-old Mr. John Gerald Maher, also appeared at Helmsstedt to similarly announce his expulsion by the Soviets. Mr. John Maher had entered the East Zone "illegally" with his brother after travelling by rail from London, through Holland and West Germany, into Berlin, and thence East.

The Maher brothers were born in Sydney, Australia, and were brought up in a children by their parents in 1938.

Both brothers now live in Castle Donington, Derbyshire, England. Bernard is travelling on an Australian passport, he obtained from Australia House, London, last February, and John is travelling on a British passport.

John is expected to join his brother in Hanover later tonight. They will stay in a city hotel until tomorrow when they board a train due to arrive in London on Saturday.

Telling the United Press today of the events leading up to his expulsion from the Soviet Zone, Bernard said: "In England I was a member of the Manchester Communist Party but I wanted a chance to see for myself what the Communist State was like."

Instead of getting a welcome in East Germany, I was taken to a job for the Russians when I returned to England," Bernard said.

NOT A MEMBER

Bernard said that his brother John was not a member of the Communist Party but had gone along on the East German trip "to help make up his mind."

For the last four days of our confinement in that cell we got absolutely nothing to eat. We managed to break out of the place by smashing a window with a brick but they picked us up again in short order. Finally we were taken away in another car, let out near the border at Helmsstedt, and told to keep walking," the young Australian said.—United Press.

INSPIRATION

Nairobi, Mar. 24.

Inspector Ronald Bowler of Belvedere, Kent, who in the last year has narrowly escaped death from shooting and drowning, survived another "near thing" last night when Mau Mau gunmen fired at him from point blank range.

Inspector Bowler was shot at by a terrorist in February 1954. The bullet ricocheted off his cap badge and tore a hole through his cap.

Four months later he plunged into the flooded Nairobi river to save three people from an overturned boat. Two African constables were drowned on this occasion.

Last night Inspector Bowler stopped his police truck to save an African housing estate to question three men. They opened fire on him and fled.

A bullet smashed into the truck where Inspector Bowler was sitting, but he was unharmed.—China Mail Special.

STRUGGLE IN MALAYA London Welcomes N.Z. Decision

London, Mar. 24.

New Zealand's intention to put forces into the anti-Communist struggle in Malaya was warmly welcomed in British diplomatic quarters here today.

Diplomatic observers said that the defence statement of Mr. Sidney Holland, New Zealand Prime Minister, was "firm and comprehensive." It did not come as a surprise because for Australia and New Zealand the centre of gravity in defence has of late been shifting eastward from the Middle East, they added.

Mr. Holland had defence talks with the British Government during the Commonwealth Prime Ministers conference here last February. He was assisted at the defence discussions by Major General William Inkley, Chief of New Zealand's General Staff.

Observers noted that Mr. Holland's new defence policy follows his visit to Singapore after the Commonwealth Conference here and the conference in February at Bangkok of the Foreign Ministers of the South-east Asia Treaty Organisation.

Mr. Thomas Macdonald, New Zealand Foreign Minister, attended the Bangkok talks and later had consultations in Singapore with Mr. Holland.

Insp Bowler Has Another Escape

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ACTRESS OFF HER HAY

Berlin, Mar. 24.

A West Berlin "actress," now retired from the stage, refused to eat hay during her first days in private life.

She was "Lady Astor," a snow-white goat, which had had three appearances nightly on the stage of the Renaissance Theatre for the past five months in John Patrick's play "Tea-house of the August Moon."

Her attendants said they hoped she would soon give up behaving like a stage star.—China Mail Special.

RUSSIAN SAILORS UNLOAD TANKER

Raykjavik, Mar. 24.

Russian sailors have been unloading oil from their American-built tanker here in the face of a nation-wide transport strike.

But Communists who are supporting the strike carefully refrained today from calling them "strike-breakers."

The 7,176-ton tanker Leninograd, christened in 1943 at Portland, Oregon, and sent to Russia under Lend-Lease, docked here just as the wage strike started last week.

Striking longshoremen refused to handle her cargo of fuel oil. So the Soviet sailors themselves unloaded the cargo.—United Press.

A British Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS**
1. Conifer (5).
4. District of Southern England (5).
7. Sequence (6).
10. Kind of heather (4).
12. Garb (7).
15. Dirt (5).
16. Rent (4).
17. Auction (4).
18. Eloquent (5).
20. Out-out pattern (7).
21. Knocks (4).
23. Breezy (6).
24. Bird of prey (8).
25. Banquet (5).
26. Threw into the air (6).
- DOWN**
2. Unfounded (8).
3. Throats (8).
5. Past (4).
6. Lift (8).
8. Mess (6).
9. Fascination (5).
11. Shells thrown by hand (8).
12. Precursors (8).
13. Love stories (8).
14. Diminished (8).
18. Clothing (6).
22. Luminous circle (4).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD—Across: 3 Ramparts, 8 Aleppo, 9 Decarates, 11 Confused, 12 Bold, 13 Debar, 16 Dared, 19 Read, 20 Torador, 24 Declined, 25 Seeped, 26 Entreats. Down: 1 Parch, 2 Flank, 3 Reduced, 4 Apes, 5 Prod, 6 Reason, 7 Steady, 10 Cedar, 14 Baron, 15 Recedes, 16 Cradle, 7 Mascot, 20 Adept, 21 Brads, 22 Time, 23 Regt.

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"Since Churchill's speech Vera thinks every body with a suitcase is carrying plutonium."

Jobless But They're Happy

By Bernard Ronald

WHAT do Italians do when they cannot find a job? The answer is that many thousands go to a huge barracks-like building in Milan which could well be called "New Life House".

Now, the unemployed with smiles on their faces and adventure in their hearts step inside. They have come from all parts of the peninsula, bronzed bricklayers from Naples, bright-eyed, buxom beauties from Bolzano, carpenters from Capri and peasant girls from Parma.

Their hopes are high even if their funds are low. All of them are resolved to put many miles between themselves and the poverty they knew at home. Some will earn respectable fortunes, others will find romance as well as a well-paid job.

Once they step through the huge green-painted door, their hearts beat double time and their horizons become limitless. I went along to see these modern adventurers. It struck me that they hadn't a care in the world.

NO OPPORTUNITY

"New Life House" is Milan's Emigration Centre. Italians have lost their empire, but not their desire to emigrate. They look upon emigration as a double-barrelled blessing that improves the prospects for those who go and makes job-finding easier for those who remain behind.

Italy is sunny and colourful, full of fine wines and gay music. But it is not a country full of opportunity; for boys can leave school at 11 to be thrown on a labour market already saddled with 2,000,000 unemployed. An emigration official told me: "The Italian Government is spending over £800,000,000 on the construction of roads, houses, bridges and State factories. The aim is to provide work for as many people as possible, particularly in the depressed areas where industry is as yet undeveloped."

It helps, but it cannot hope to solve the unemployment problem.

Italy's population is growing too fast. The birth rate is 18 to 19 per 1,000 inhabitants, about double the death rate. Today Italy has 47,000,000 people. By 1960 they will have grown to 50,000,000 and will probably reach 53,000,000 by 1970. Large-scale emigration is the only solution.

TO AUSTRALIA

I asked which was the country holding out the brightest hopes for Italian emigration today. The answer is Australia, where thousands of Italians are finding work as bricklayers, joiners, factory hands, domestics in private homes.

The girls are mostly from Trieste. We have received thousands of applications from would-be domestics but we are sending only young unmarried women. Canada is not taking as many Italians as it had done in the past but we hope a new agreement can be reached which will speed up the flow of emigrants.

Other good outlets for Italian surplus manpower are Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela.

CENTENNIAL OF A GREAT WORLD MOVEMENT

A SHOP ASSISTANT FOUNDED THE YMCA

By J. W. Taylor

FROM August 12 to 23 next 10,000 delegates of YMCAs in 80 countries of the world, representing a total membership of 4½ million men and boys of all races, classes and Christian creeds, will meet in Paris for six simultaneous conferences, camps and numerous other gatherings to celebrate the centennial of the World's Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations, the oldest international youth movement in the world.

The delegates will deliberate in the famous Sorbonne, in the Cite Universitaire, in the Palais des Sports — the Harringay of Paris — and other centres, all in strange contrast to the first international conference of YMCAs in a Paris Wesleyan chapel in Rue Royale 100 years before. Then 97 young YMCA leaders from eight European countries and America, moving to the wider conception of a universal confederation, adopted the famous "Paris Basis" declaration of purpose, which became the foundation of the Alliance's work and the charter upon which this world movement is united.

SURVIVAL

THIS chapel gathering was to be the first in a chain of 21 world conferences in Britain, Europe, Asia and America, and next August's assembly will include the 22nd world conference. Its proceedings will terminate with a mammoth centennial rally on August 22, when adherence to the "Paris Basis" will be reaffirmed.

All this developed with mushroom growth and oak-like survival from the hostel bedroom prayer and Bible study meetings of 12 young draper's assistants in their employer's warehouse premises in St. Paul's Churchyard, London, started 111 years ago by the young £40-a-year draper's assistant, George Williams, founder of the Young Men's Christian Association.

At 19, this son of a Dulverton Somerset farmer in 1841 joined 140 other shop assistants living two-in-a-bed, three beds per room at Hitchcock and Rogers' drapery in Ludgate Hill. Many of them, like most of London's other 150,000 "shop assistants," were a loose-living, godless crowd. There was a 15-hour



Sir George Williams, pictured as a young man who had already founded the YMCA and was extending it throughout Britain and to many countries abroad.

day, with no half holiday and only 10 minutes' break for each meal in a dismal basement-cum-sitting room.

In a city then notorious for its lawlessness, vice, drunkenness and poverty, these youths spent their meagre earnings in odd leisure hours in the numerous gin palaces, beer shops, bawdy houses, taverns and coffee shops, at any of which one could get drunk for twopence.

Ever since that night in 1837 when he was "converted" as he sat alone in the Bridgewater Congregational Chapel, Somerset, George Williams demonstrated strong religious convictions. He possessed, too, great business and organising ability and tremendous physical energy, which were to sustain him for over 60 years as a vital force in the religious, business and social life of the City. This was fittingly crowned with a knighthood and the Freedom of the City in 1894, when the 15th world conference of the YMCA was held in London to celebrate the jubilee of Williams' founding of the movement.

PHILANTHROPY

In the meantime, at 32, Williams had married his employer's daughter, who bore him five sons; he had been made a partner in the business, and eventually became a comparatively rich man. He gave away a large proportion of his wealth to many religious and philanthropic causes.

As a youth, Williams had found London a fantastic medley of wealth and refinement, poverty and squalor, vice and degradation — all haunted and obvious amidst the Industrial Revolution that was proceeding apace, with its beneficial influences and baneful results.

People said it was impossible for young men of those days to be Christians, but young Williams did not agree. He set about evangelising his 140 godless colleagues. Gradually he persuaded some to attend his hostel bedroom religious meetings, helped by his roommate, Christopher Smith.

Success led Williams' adventures, on to evangelising

Soon YMCAs were formed in America, South Africa and New Zealand and finally extended to many other lands. The phenomenal first 10 years' growth of the London Association — the parent Association of the movement — caused removals to a succession of new premises, including the famous Exeter Hall, on the present site of the Strand Palace Hotel.

Meanwhile, the work was extended to meet the needs of boys. General Baden Powell in 1908 introduced his scheme of "Scouting for Boys" under the auspices of the YMCA, and in many British Scout organisations today, No. 1 Scout Troop is the YMCA Troop.

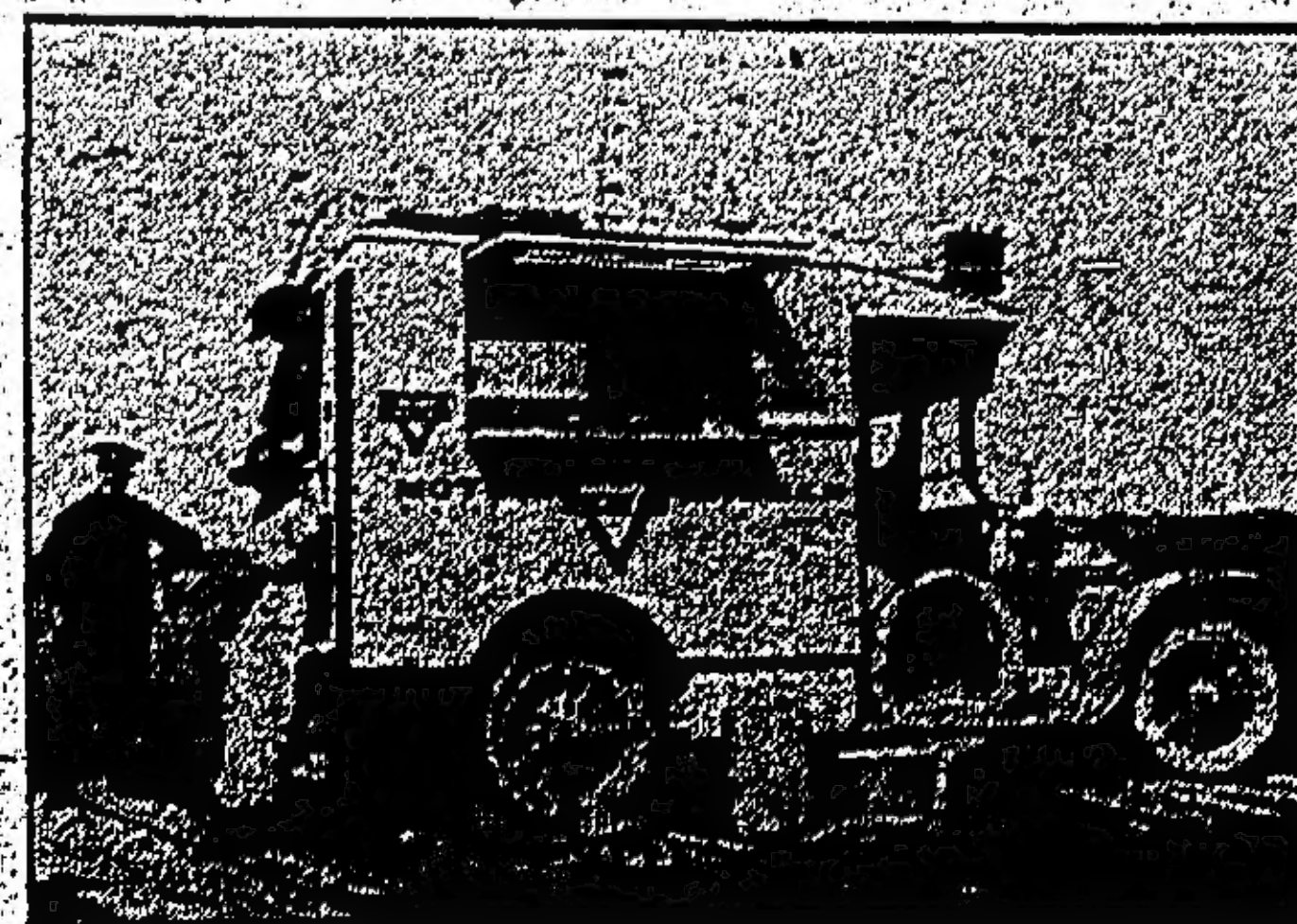
The YMCA's work for troops was pioneered by the Geneva Association in 1886 for the occupying Forces. The German Association did it during the Austro and Franco-Prussian Wars, whilst the British Association served troops in many campaigns including the Boer War, the South African War, in World Wars One and Two, and at Territorial camps all over Britain from the days in 1890 of the old Local Volunteers' Occupying.

AMALGAMATION

Other troops stationed all over the world are still being served in many ways by the YMCA. The service of the United States YMCA to soldiers in the American Civil War was the first work of its kind to be organised on a national basis. It used the first mobile canteen ever, a horse-drawn contraption with a huge boiler.

In 1895, the three Associations working in the centre of London — Exeter Hall, Aldersgate Street and Cornhill — were amalgamated into the London Central YMCA. Its present commodious Tottenham Court Road premises, with indoor swimming pool, modern residential hostel, gymnasium and restaurant, were built and equipped, along with the 20-acre sports ground at Mottingham, at a cost of £300,000 in 1911, when King George V became the Patron of the National Council of YMCAs.

Some 29 years earlier, George Williams had become the first President of the newly-formed English Council, and four years



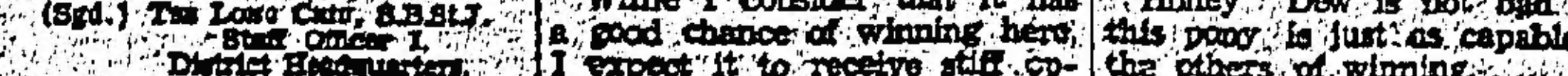
One of the first YMCA mobile canteens used in World War One, pictured on a muddy site behind the lines "somewhere in France."

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